

Minutes

Easton Energy & Environment Task Force

Special meeting, Wednesday July 24, 2019

Easton Town Hall, Conference room A, 7:30 pm

Present: Cathy Alfandre, Katie Callahan, Emily Winter, Heidi Armster

Missing: Bobby Morganti

Guests: Joan Winter, Lise Flurette

Cathy called the meeting to order at 7:55

Cathy briefly outlined discussion that had occurred prior to the official start of the meeting. Some members of the public had come to discuss concerns about the installation of new poles on Sport Hill Road and the potential hazards of 5G. Cathy offered them suggestions for state and local agencies to contact since the issue is outside of our purview.

Minutes

Heidi motioned to approve; Katie seconded. All approved.

Solar project update (Cathy)

No construction update for Phase II at this time.

Phase I update: no report available because no data was generated. Cathy contacted Green Bank to ask what had happened and got an email stating that there appeared to be a communication issue with connections to the meter. Another email revealed that there had been a temporary shut-down of the Phase I, initially believed to be due to the current construction. The most recent email reported to Cathy that an inverter had blown, which will result in a temporary under-performance of the system until corrected.

Recycling update/next steps (Cathy)

Cathy passed out a list of questions that the TF will submit to Oakridge, the recycling plant used by the Town of Easton. Team discussed the questions to determine if they will generate answers needed to improve recycling efforts. Katie to follow up with the questions and discuss or invite Oakridge contact to a meeting to answer them.

Sustainable Fairfield County meeting update (Emily)

1. Reported that mattresses can be recycled for free at the Trumbull transfer station for Easton residents
2. Discussion about how to disseminate information to the town.

3. E-busses for schools: Bluebird involved, created a small fleet for White Plains and Amherst, MA. But the difficulty is that there is a \$200,000 difference between the elec busses and standard ones when purchasing; a second generation of busses coming soon. Payback for one bus would be 12 years.
4. Discussion with BoE: one result of having electric busses would be fewer carcinogens (as Diesel isn't a clean fuel); greener and safer environment for students

Emily reported about an event on September 14th called Green Wheels; Emily sent the group a link to a powerpoint about the program; suggested we attend for more information.

Propane busses are an alternative, one used already by 14 towns in CT.

Quick updates:

- **HKMS:** nothing to report this month
- **TF membership:** Lise put in her request to be on the TF, waiting to hear if approved for nomination (Cathy will follow up).
- Emily will be resigning from the task force to pursue graduate school; Deidre may seek to take her position
- **Pollinator Pathway** followup: Zach texted Cathy with a logo he put together for the TF
- **Community awareness items:** EV showcase 9/14; innovation hour at Westport Library
- EV station (Katie): Cathy and Katie are following up to request the repair of the station ports; Katie followed up with Adam who said that it would be fixed before he leaves office next year
- Cathy announced that there will be another Clean Energy Communities meeting on September 28th if anyone is able to make it
- **August meeting:** August meeting in place until further notice

Emily motioned to adjourn; Heidi seconded.
Cathy adjourned the meeting at 9 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,
Heidi Armster, secretary